



STATE OF UTAH—DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CALVIN L. RAMPTON
Governor
PAUL S.
Evancho

DIVISION OF HEALTH
44 MEDICAL DRIVE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84113
AREA CODE 301

Board of Health
Air Conservation Committee
Health Facilities Council
Medical Examiner Committee
Nursing Home Advisory Council
Water Pollution Committee

LYMAN J. OLSEN, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

323-6163
April 3, 1975

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
72 East 4th South
Salt Lake City, Utah

R. Raymond Green, M.D., Director
Wasatch County Health Department
County Courthouse
Heber City, Utah 84032

Dear Dr. Green:

It became apparent this past year, while providing direct sanitation service to Wasatch County, that the potential for polluting the ground water aquifer which underlies Heber Valley is rapidly increasing.

The number of homes in the valley which employ septic tanks and drain-fields for wastewater disposal is increasing every year. Many of the homes for which this office reviewed waste disposal system plans were also installing wells for culinary use.

A review of State of Utah Department of Natural Resources Technical Publication No. 27, entitled "Water Resources of the Heber-Kamas-Park City area, North Central Utah, by C. H. Baker, Jr., U.S. Geological Survey, 1970," and other available information indicates that the principal source of water for wells in the Heber Valley is the unconsolidated alluvial fill which underlies the valley floor and it is essentially a single, homogeneous water table aquifer.

The principle source of recharge for the Heber Valley aquifer is irrigation water. Research has shown that the water level in many Heber Valley wells fluctuates in response not only to the spring thaw and runoff, but also to the rapid infiltration of irrigation water applied to nearby fields.

This clearly illustrates the nature of the loose unconsolidated fill which underlies the valley to an approximate depth of 800 feet in some areas. This also means that effluent from subsurface wastewater absorption systems percolates downward very rapidly without undergoing effective filtration or biological purification and possibly contaminates the ground water aquifer. This is even more critical where the water table elevation rises to within 2 or 3 feet of the ground surface as it does in some areas of the valley, especially the Charleston area.

The general movement of the ground water in Heber Valley is from the east toward Charleston, thus placing the town of Charleston's new municipal

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well and other private wells in the area in jeopardy of possible contamination if the water aquifer becomes polluted. Also, most wells constructed in Heber Valley do not meet the recommended deep well standards because of the unconsolidated material found in the valley.

With a projected growth in the valley of approximately 35 percent by 1980 the density of septic tank systems will increase, raising the potential for contamination of the water table aquifer. In addition, it is our understanding that the Center Creek and Daniels Domestic Public Water Systems have placed a moratorium on any further connections thus forcing more new dwellings to private well supplies.

I believe we would be remiss in our responsibility if we did not inform your office of our concern for the probable contamination of the Heber Valley aquifer. We would like to suggest that this potential problem be taken up by the local Board of Health. If they feel as we do, that a thorough study of the potential problem should be undertaken, then a meeting should be set up so that representatives from this department could participate in discussing the possible means of undertaking such a study and the formulation of appropriate policy.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Lynn H. Thatcher
Deputy Director of Health

MRR:jw

Bar M
Boal Bag

Harold Metcalf
Lucian Peck

Daniels

Epperson Spring

} Reed Noble.

YMCA. Camp - Soapstone

Mrs Abbott - Prairie